

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A joint for a superconducting cable, the joint being for jointing two lengths of the superconducting cable with each other, the superconducting cable comprising a former, a superconducting conductor, and an insulating layer;

the construction of the joint comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing a jointing ferrule for jointing the formers;**
- (b) sliding the jointing ferrule over the end portions of the formers to be jointed;**
- (c) butting the end faces of the formers against each other in the jointing ferrule;**
- (d) compressing the jointing ferrule so as to joint the formers such that the compressed ferrule has a diameter equal to that of the former of the superconducting cable;**
- (e) butting the end faces of the superconducting conductors to be jointed against each other at the outside of the compressed ferrule; and**
- (f) jointing the superconducting conductors with each other such that the jointed superconducting conductors have a diameter equal to that of the superconducting conductor of the superconducting cable.**

2. (Original) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 1, wherein the construction of the joint further comprises the step of providing a restoring insulating layer at the outside of the superconducting conductor such that the restoring insulating layer has a diameter equal to that of the insulating layer of the superconducting cable.

3. (Original) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 2, wherein:

- (a) the superconducting cable further comprises a shielding layer; and**
- (b) the construction of the joint further comprises the steps of:**
 - (b1) butting the end faces of the shielding layers to be jointed against each other at the outside of the restoring insulating layer; and**
 - (b2) jointing the shielding layers with each other such that the jointed shielding layers have a diameter equal to that of the shielding layer of the superconducting cable.**

- 4. (Currently amended) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein:**
- (a) the superconducting cable yet further comprises a channel for a coolant that cools the superconducting conductor; and**
 - (b) the joint comprises an outer case that can secure a coolant channel having a cross-sectional area nearly equal to that of the coolant channel of the superconducting cable.**
- 5. (New) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 2, wherein:**
- (a) the superconducting cable yet further comprises a channel for a coolant that cools the superconducting conductor; and**
 - (b) the joint comprises an outer case that can secure a coolant channel having a cross-sectional area nearly equal to that of the coolant channel of the superconducting cable.**
- 6. (New) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 3, wherein:**
- (a) the superconducting cable yet further comprises a channel for a coolant that cools the superconducting conductor; and**
 - (b) the joint comprises an outer case that can secure a coolant channel having a cross-sectional area nearly equal to that of the coolant channel of the superconducting cable.**